

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 02958 252144Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /070 W

-----260918Z 112437 /10

R 251820Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9416

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 02958

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BE

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS II

REF: BRUSSELS A-64

SUMMARY: SECOND WEEK OF THE BELGIAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN SAW PUBLICATION OF LISTS OF CANDIDATES AND PARTY PLATFORMS. PSB AND CVP/PSC PROGRAMS SHOW FAIRLY LARGE AREA OF ACCORD. PUBLIC OPINION POLL CONDUCTED IN EARLY MARCH - PRIOR TO DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT - SUGGESTS SERIOUS SLIPPAGE IN TINDEMANS' (AND DECLERCQ'S) POPULARITY OVER THE PAST YEAR. SOCIALIST-SOCIAL CHRISTIAN COALITION SEEMS THE MOST LIKELY UPSHOT OF THE APRIL 17 CONTEST. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SECOND WEEK OF THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN SAW RAPID PROGRESS IN COMPLETION OF LISTS OF CANDIDATES. LIST-MAKING PROVED TO BE A TRYING EXERCISE FOR THE FRANCOPHONE SOCIAL CHRISTIANS (PSC) WHO - BES ET

BY SOCIALIST (PSB) ENTICEMENTS, AND DEEPLY SPLIT BETWEEN CONSERVATIVE AND LABOR ELEMENTS - WERE FORCED TO CALL ON PIERRE HARMEL AND A COMMITTEE OF PARTY ELDERS TO SETTLE INTRAMURAL SQUABBLING IN THE ARRONDISSEMENTS OF CHARLEROI, NAMUR, LIEGE AND MONTTOISE. ANOTHER FEATURE OF THE CAMPAIGN'S SECOND WEEK WAS THE APPEARANCE OF A NUMBER OF PARTY PLATFORM STATEMENTS. THE SOCIALIST PLATFORM WAS FOLLOWED BY VOLKSUNIE, PVV (FLEMISH LIBERALS), COMMUNIST, AND SOCIAL UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 02958 252144Z

CHRISTIAN (CVP/PSC) PARTY PLATFORM STATEMENTS. FOCUSING ON THE MAJOR ISSUES (EMPLOYMENT, REGIONALIZATION, PUBLIC FINANCE), THESE HASTILY DRAWN RE-CAPS OF FAMILIAR PARTY POSITIONS HAD MORE THE CHARACTER OF NEGOTIATING DOCUMENTS THAN APPEALS FOR VOTER SUPPORT.

2. THE CVP/PSC PROGRAM PARALLELS THE PSB PLATFORM IN THE FOLLOWING RESPECTS: FAVORED TREATMENT FOR "ACTIVE" PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, PUBLIC

INITIATIVES TO COMPLEMENT PRIVATE INVESTMENT, PRIORITY TO EMPLOYMENT, MAINTENANCE OF WAGE INDEXATION, WORKER PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING IN INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF AND PARTICIPATION IN THE ENERGY SECTOR, EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST INCOME TAX EVASION, AND SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM. POINTS OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO PLATFORMS

CONCERNED LIBERALIZATION OF THE LAW ON ABORTION AND MAINTENANCE OF PARALLEL SYSTEMS OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE.

3. ON MARCH 21-22 RESULTS APPEARED OF A UNIVERSITY PUBLIC OPINION POLL CONDUCTED DURING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 4, 1977 (REF AIRGRAM). THE POLL SHOWED A SHARP DECLINE IN POPULARITY OF PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS AND FINANCE MINISTER DE CLERCQ AND A MAJORITY NEGATIVE VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE IN THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY ACTION AREAS. BUT A MAJORITY OF THOSE POLLED ALSO FELT THAT THE TINDEMANS GOVERNMENT SHOULD REMAIN IN PLACE.

4. PSB CO-PRESIDENT COOLS MEANWHILE VIGOROUSLY PRESSED HIS EFFORT TO FORGE A COMMON FRONT OF WALLOON PROGRESSIVES AT THE EXPENSE OF A DIVIDED PSC. THE PSC'S INSISTENCE THAT ANY FUTURE COALITION HAVE A "SIGNIFICANT PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY" IN WALLONIA WOULD SEEM TO POINT TO A SOCIAL CHRISTIAN-SOCIALIST COALITION. BUT THE SOCIALISTS, AGGRESSIVE ON THE FRANCOPHONE FRONT, ARE COY ON THE FLEMISH SIDE. PSB CO-PRESIDENT CLAES WARNS THAT THE CVP IS "NOT A NECESSARY PARTNER" FOR THE SOCIALISTS, LEAVING THE DOOR AJAR TO THE MINOR PARTIES. THUS THE SHAPE OF THE COALITION TO BE CREATED AFTER THE APRIL 17 ELECTIONS REMAINS SPECULATIVE.

RENNER

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 02958 252144Z

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, POLITICAL PARTIES, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRUSSE02958
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770104-0618
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770323/aaaaatte.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4f9261b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BRUSSELS A-64
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3001199
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS II
TAGS: PINT, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4f9261b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009